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EXAMINER
MEANS, JAREN M

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/553,385	NAGAI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jaren M. Means	2447	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _19 October 2005_.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-20_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _1-20_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _10/19/2005 and 7/27/2007_.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2.   Documents listed in the IDS submitted on 10/19/2005 and 7/27/2007 were

considered.

Claim Objections

3.   Claims 4, 8, 14 and 18 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- "tilt" in line 2 of claim 4 should be "title";

- "tilt" in line 2 of claim 8 should be "title";

- "tilt" in line 2 of claim 14 should be "title"; and

- "tilt" in line 2 of claim 18 should be "title".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4.   35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of
> matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the
> conditions and requirements of this title.

5.   Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is

directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The claims 1-10 lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 101. They are clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at best, functional descriptive material *per se.*

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7.   Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Enoki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,873,085).

With respect to claim 1, Enoki teaches a server for use in a system that is designed to transmit, receive and share multimedia information between a plurality of terminal devices that are connected together over a network *(i.e., a file management system constructed with a plurality of servers and plurality of terminals that share file services, abstract).*

Enoki also teaches a management table for managing identifiers to identify the terminal devices and the addresses of the terminal devices on the network *(i.e., a management table which manages files stored on said plurality of servers by using virtual file identifiers, abstract. The management table contains a virtual file identifier*

and a corresponding server computer name (address of terminal device), column 14

lines 15-17. The server computer name is used to locate the device so therefore it acts

as an address for finding the terminal device and then requesting data from it).

Enoki also teaches a server receiving section, which receives the identifier from a

first one of the terminal devices *(i.e., the device checks said management table by using*

the virtual file identifier contained in the file access request received by said receiving

section, abstract. Therefore the receiving section receives a file identifier contained in

the file access request from a first one of the terminal devices).

Enoki further teaches a processing section for getting the address of the first

terminal device on the transmitting end based on reception of the identifier *(i.e.,*

processing section which modifies said file access request so that a response to said

file access request can be sent back to the terminal that issued said access request,

directly from the server determined by said request analyzing section, abstract. Thus

an identifier is used to locate a reference (address) to the client (transmitting end

device) so that a response can be sent back to the client. The request analyzing

section checks the virtual file identifier contained in the received file access request, and

determines the corresponding server computer name (address), column 14 lines 15-17.

Files can be moved from on server to another, thus any of the servers can also act as

the transmitting end device, column 3 lines 50-54. The servers in the system can act as

both transmitting end and receiving end devices, thus the identified prior art reads on

the instant application).

Enoki also teaches getting the address of a second one of the terminal devices, identified by the identifier received, by reference to the identifier and the management table *(i.e., the virtual file management apparatus has a request analyzing section that checks the virtual file identifier contained in the received file access request, and determines the corresponding server computer (address) by referencing the management table, column 14 lines 15-17. Since files can be moved from on server to another any of the servers can act as the second terminal device, column 3 lines 50-54).*

Enoki also teaches a server transmitting section for sending the address of the second terminal device to the first terminal device when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information *(i.e., The request processing section in the server computer that received the modified file access request creates response data to the file access request by using the file system, and transmits the response data to the client computer, column 14 lines 27-32. This exchange involves sending the computer name (address) of the server (second terminal device) to the client (first terminal device) when the server retains the data files. The above example of the embodiment has dealt with a case in which a file access request to read the contents of a file is issued from the client computer. The same process applies for the case where a file access request to write data to a file is issued; that is, the request modification processing section modifies the file access request containing write data on the basis of the contents of the management table, and transfers the request to the server computer where the data of the file is stored, to accomplish data writing to the file. This exchange involves sending*

the computer name (address) of the server (second terminal device) to the client (first

terminal device) when the client retains the data files).

Enoki further teaches sending the address of the first terminal device to the

second terminal device when the second terminal device retains the multimedia

information *(i.e., The request processing section in the server computer that received*

the modified file access request creates response data to the file access request by

using the file system, and transmits the response data to the client computer, column 14

lines 27-32. This exchange involves sending the computer name (address) of the

server (second terminal device) to the client (first terminal device) when the server

retains the data files).

Enoki further teaches multimedia information that is transmitted, received and

shared between the first and second terminal devices by reference to the address

provided *(i.e., the modified file access request creates response data to the file access*

request by using the file systems and then transmits the response data to the client

computer, column 14 lines 30-33. This can be either a read or a write operation as

described above. Thus the files are shared between the two devices in reference to the

computer name (addresses) in the management table).

The limitations of claim 11 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1 above, and the

claim is rejected on that basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as
> set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be
> patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious
> at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said
> subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention
> was made.

9.   Claims 2, 6, 9, 12, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Enoki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,873,085) and in view of Lui S.,

("Interoperability of Peer-To-Peer File Sharing Protocols", ACM SIGecom Exchanges,

Vol. 3, No. 3, August 2002, pages 25-33)(hereinafter Lui).

With respect to claim 2, Enoki teaches a case where the first terminal device

retains the multimedia information and a server receiving section receives the identifier

of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information

from the first terminal device *(i.e., when a file access request is received, that particular*

server computer, based on the virtual file identifiers it manages, retrieves data of the

requested file from the server computer where the real data of the file is stored, and

transfers the retrieved data to the requesting client computer, column 2 lines 27-32.

The virtual file management system constructed with a plurality of servers and a

plurality of terminals that share file services, abstract. Thus the virtual file management

system uses the virtual file identifiers in correlation with the server identifiers to share

file services. One of the functions moves a selected file from the server where said file

is stored to another server, column 11 lines 8-12. This means that file services can be used by clients and/or other servers (first terminal devices), to access files contained on other servers (second terminal devices) on the network. In this way the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the data is received by the virtual file manager from a client/server (first terminal device), when the first terminal device retains the data information).

Enoki also teaches a server transmitting section sends the share request to the second terminal device *(i.e., a virtual file management system constructed with a plurality of servers and a plurality of terminals that share file services, abstract. A function that processes a file access request (share request) and that instructs said transmitting section to transmit the processed result to said terminals (second terminal device), column 10 lines 41-43).*

Enoki does not explicitly teach a server receiving section that receives an acknowledgement, indicating that the multimedia information is receivable, from a second terminal device in response to the share request.

However, Lui teaches a server receiving section that receives an acknowledgement, indicating that the multimedia information is receivable, from a second terminal device in response to the share request *(i.e., the server sends a download ack message to the peer with the details of the file download, table 4)* in order for a peer to request files from others and share files with other peers *(section 1).*

Lui also teaches the server transmitting section sends the address of the second terminal device and a request to transmit the multimedia information to the first terminal

device *(i.e., the server sends a message to the peer (first terminal device) with details of the file download including the IP address of the peer that hosts the file (second terminal device), table 4).*

Therefore, based on Enoki in view of Lui, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Lui to the system of Enoki in order for a peer to request files from others and share files with other peers.

With respect to claim 6, Enoki teaches a case where the second terminal device retains the multimedia information and a server receiving section receives the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device *(i.e., when a file access request is received, that particular server computer, based on the virtual file identifiers it manages, retrieves data of the requested file from the server computer where the real data of the file is stored, and transfers the retrieved data to the requesting client/server computer, column 2 lines 27-32. The virtual file management system constructed with a plurality of servers and a plurality of terminals that share file services, abstract. Thus the virtual file management system uses the virtual file identifiers in correlation with the server identifiers to share file services. One of the functions moves a selected file from the server where said file is stored to another server, column 11 lines 8-12. This means that file services can be used by clients and/or other servers (first terminal devices), to access files contained on other clients/servers (second terminal devices) on the network. In this way the identifier*

of the second terminal device and a share request to share the data is received by the

virtual file manager from a client/server (second terminal device), when the second

terminal device retains the data information).

Enoki does not explicitly teach a server transmitting section that sends the share

request and the address of the first terminal devices to the second terminal device.

However, Lui teaches a server transmitting section that sends the share request

and the address of the first terminal devices to the second terminal device *(i.e., the*

server sends a message to the peer (second terminal device) with details of the file

download including the IP address of the peer that hosts the file (first terminal device),

table 4) in order for a peer to request files from others and share files with other peers

(section 1).

Lui also teaches a server receiving section that receives an acknowledgement,

indicating that the multimedia information is transmittable, from the second terminal

device in response to the share request *(i.e., the server sends a download ack message*

to the peer with the details of the file download, table 4. All peers in the network can

both act as both a client and/or a server, section 1. Therefore the receiving section

receives an ack indicating that the multimedia is transmittable from another peer

(second terminal device) in response to the share request).

Lui further teaches a server transmitting section that sends a request to receive

the multimedia information to the first terminal device *(i.e., a peer can request files from*

others and share files with other peers, section 1).

Therefore, based on Enoki in view of Lui, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Lui to the system of Enoki in order for a peer to request files from others and share files with other peers.

With respect to claim 9, Enoki does not explicitly teach an address includes an IP address and a port number.

However, Lui teaches an address includes an IP address and a port number *(i.e., a message that contains the IP address of the peer that hosts the file and the port number of that peer, table 4)* in order for a peer to request files from others and share files with other peers *(section 1).*

Therefore, based on Enoki in view of Lui, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Lui to the system of Enoki in order for a peer to request files from others and share files with other peers.

The limitations of claim 12 are rejected in the analysis of claim 2 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 16 are rejected in the analysis of claim 6 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 19 are rejected in the analysis of claim 9 above, and the

claim is rejected on that basis.

10.   Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

as being unpatentable over Enoki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,873,085) and in view of Lui

S., ("Interoperability of Peer-To-Peer File Sharing Protocols", ACM SIGecom

Exchanges, Vol. 3, No. 3, August 2002, pages 25-33)(hereinafter Lui), and further in

view of Yang B., ("Comparing Hybrid Peer-to Peer Systems", Proceedings of the 27th

VLDB Conference, 2001, pages 1-10, especially 1-3)(hereinafter Yang).

With respect to claim 3, Enoki and Lui do not explicitly teach a first terminal

device that has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information,

including at least one title, and title information, representing the properties of the at

least one title, are stored.

However, Yang teaches a first terminal device that has a transmitting-end

database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title

information, representing the properties of the at least one title, are stored *(i.e., a client*

process running on a user's computer connects to a particular server, and uploads

metadata describing the user's library. A library is the collection of files that a user is

willing to share. The metadata might include file names, creation dates, and copyright

information, section 3) in order to provide a data-sharing system to support search and

exchange files found on user disk *(section 1).*

Yang further teaches a server receiving section that receives the title information, stored in the transmitting-end database, from the first terminal device *(i.e., a client process running on a user's computer connects to a particular server, and uploads metadata describing the user's library, section 3. Thus the server receives title information in the form of metadata from the client's database (library))*.

Yang also teaches a processing section makes a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the second terminal device *(i.e., the server maintains an index on the metadata of its client's files. Every file's metadata is considered a document, with the text of the file name, author name, and so on, being its content. The server also maintains a table of user connection information, describing active connections (e.g., client IP address), section 3. The IP address is a type of a device identifier. Depending on the architecture, servers may index the library information of both local and remote users, section 3. Thus the identifiers of the second device are included in the title list processing)*.

Yang further teaches a server transmitting section that transmits the title list to the first terminal device and receives a request to share the multimedia information, selected by reference to the title list, from the first terminal device *(i.e., By logging on, the user is now able to query its server, and is allowing other users to download their files, section 3. Thus a library (title list) is transmitted from the server to the first user, and then a request to share the multimedia is received at the server from that same user, selected by reference to the library (title list))*.

Therefore, based on Enoki in view of Lui, and further in view of Yang, it would

have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to utilize the teaching of Yang to the system of Enoki and Lui in order to provide a

data-sharing system to support search and exchange files found on user disk.

With respect to claim 4, Yang teaches a processing section makes a tilt list

including titles that are playable by the second terminal device *(i.e., the metadata might*

include file names, creation dates, and copyright information. The server maintains an

index on the metadata of its client's files, section 3. This index therefore contains titles

that are usable by the corresponding user). The limitations of claim 4 are rejected in the

analysis of claim 3 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

With respect to claim 7, Enoki and Lui do not explicitly teach a second terminal

device that has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information,

including at least one title, and title information, representing the properties of the at

least one title, are stored.

However, Yang teaches a second terminal device that has a transmitting-end

database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title

information, representing the properties of the at least one title, are stored *(i.e., a client*

process running on a user's computer connects to a particular server, and uploads

metadata describing the user's library. A library is the collection of files that a user is

willing to share. The metadata might include file names, creation dates, and copyright

information, section 3. Any of the peers connected to the network have this library

(transmitting-end database) in which the multimedia data is stored. Thus that includes

either a first, second, third or fourth terminal device with a library) in order to provide a

data-sharing system to support search and exchange files found on user disk *(section*

1).

Yang also teaches a server receiving section that receives the title information,

stored in the transmitting-end database, from the second terminal device *(i.e., a client*

process running on a user's computer connects to a particular server, and uploads

metadata describing the user's library. A library is the collection of files that a user is

willing to share. The metadata might include file names, creation dates, and copyright

information, section 3. Any of the peers connected to the network have this library

(transmitting-end database) in which the multimedia data is stored. Thus that includes

either a first or second terminal device with the library).

Yang further teaches a processing section that makes a title list, including

predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the first terminal

device *(i.e., the server maintains an index on the metadata of its client's files. Every*

file's metadata is considered a document, with the text of the file name, author name,

and so on, being its content. The server also maintains a table of user connection

information, describing active connections (e.g., client IP address), section 3. The IP

address is a type of a device identifier. Any of the peers connected to the network have

this information stored on the server. Thus a first or second terminal device's identifier

and title information are processed to create an index of the devices files).

Yang also teaches a server transmitting section that transmits the title list to the first terminal device and receives a request to share the multimedia information, selected by reference to the title list, from the first terminal device *(i.e., By logging on, the user is now able to query its server, and is allowing other users to download their files, section 3. Thus a library (title list) is transmitted from the server to the first user, and then a request to share the multimedia is received at the server from that same user, selected by reference to the library (title list)).*

Therefore, based on Enoki in view of Lui, and further in view of Yang, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Yang to the system of Enoki and Lui in order to provide a data-sharing system to support search and exchange files found on user disk.

With respect to claim 8, Yang teaches a processing section that makes a tilt list including titles that are playable by the first terminal device *(i.e., the metadata might include file names, creation dates, and copyright information. The server maintains an index on the metadata of its client's files, section 3. This index therefore contains titles that are usable by the corresponding user).* The limitations of claim 8 are rejected in the analysis of claim 7 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

With respect to claim 10, Yang teaches a search section for searching the title information that is stored in the transmitting-end database *(i.e., the goal of a data-*

sharing system is to support search and exchange files found on user disks, section 1.

When a server receives a query, it searches for matches in its index, section 3. The

index is based on the metadata of the client's library (transmitting-end database)).

Yang also teaches a server receiving section that receives the title information

based on a result of the search done by the search section *(i.e., when a server receives*

a query, it searches for matches in its index, section 3. The title information is extracted

based on the result of the search done). The limitations of claim 10 are rejected in the

analysis of claim 3 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 13 are rejected in the analysis of claim 3 above, and the

claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 14 are rejected in the analysis of claim 4 above, and the

claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 17 are rejected in the analysis of claim 7 above, and the

claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 18 are rejected in the analysis of claim 8 above, and the

claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 20 are rejected in the analysis of claim 10 above, and the

claim is rejected on that basis.

11.   Claims 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Enoki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,873,085) and in view of Mandato et al. (U.S. Publication

No. 2001/0025280 A1).

With respect to claim 5, Enoki teaches a case where the first terminal device

retains the multimedia information and the multimedia information is transmitted,

received and shared between the first and second terminal devices *(i.e., the modified*

file access request creates response data to the file access request by using the file

systems and then transmits the response data to the client computer, column 14 lines

30-33. This can be either a read or a write operation as described above. Thus the

files are shared between the two devices in reference to the computer name

(addresses) in the management table).

Enoki does not explicitly teach a server that includes a format description table

that describes correspondence between the identifiers to identify the terminal devices

and the formats of the multimedia information that are compatible with the respective

devices.

However, Mandato teaches a server that includes a format description table that

describes correspondence between the identifiers to identify the terminal devices and

the formats of the multimedia information that are compatible with the respective

devices *(i.e., the invention generally relates to the field of mobile multimedia middle-*

ware, computer networking, distributed processing systems, data bases, hand-held

computers and wireless communication, abstract. The data base can contain

information on the access network, the network address and the characteristics of each

terminal device, section 75) in order to manage a user profile data base for storing user

profile data representing the sets of terminal devices of users in an information

transmission network *(section 81).*

Mandato further teaches a processing section that generates filter information

about the format compatible with the second terminal device by reference to the format

description table, and the server transmitting section transmits the filter information to

the first terminal device *(i.e., For each terminal, the MB can retrieve the following*

information. The terminal device characteristics (filter), which are used for selecting the

proper information format conversion mechanism, which is required for delivering

information in a ready-to-use form to the Called Party's preferred terminal device,

section 91 and section 94. Besides this information, the user profile contains

information about each terminal. The information is used during the message brokering,

section 86. Thus the information can be transmitted from any terminal device acting as

a server to another first terminal device).

Mandato also teaches a request to share the multimedia information that has

been filtered by the first terminal device in accordance with the filter information that is

sent from the first terminal device to the second terminal device *(i.e., Each IMB*

subscriber is assigned a User Space, where custom information is organized in a set of

User Profiles. This set is thereinafter indicated as Context. Such Context is thereinafter

referred to as Active Context. The User Space maintains an Active Context Indicator,

defining the currently used Context. At any time, the user (first or second terminal

device) can switch to another context (Context Switch), section 85. Thus the format

information is sent from a first terminal device to a second terminal device in the form of

context information based on collected data including the terminal device characteristics

(filter) as described above).

Therefore, based on Enoki in view of Mandato, it would have been obvious to

one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the

teaching of Mandato to the system of Enoki in order to manage a user profile data base

for storing user profile data representing the sets of terminal devices of users in an

information transmission network.

The limitations of claim 15 are rejected in the analysis of claim 5 above, and the

claim is rejected on that basis.

Conclusion

12.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

The reference Gllet et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0138181 A1) discloses a

method of managing through at least one central server a graph of connections

between active peer members.

The reference Wee-Siong N., ("A Novel Peer-to-Peer System Based on Self-Configuration", Journal of Software, Vol. 14, No. 2, 2003, pg. 1) discloses a location independent global named lookup server to identify peers with dynamic IP addresses.

The reference Stakutis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,010,532 B1) discloses a plurality of first nodes and second nodes that are coupled to one another over a communications pathway to share access to information stored on the devices.

13.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jaren M. Means whose telephone number is 571-270-7202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 9:30am thru 7:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joon H. Hwang can be reached on 571-272-4036. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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